

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, UK, SF (TRANSKEI)
SUBJ: CABINET SHUFFLED; PRIME MINISTER ASSUMES FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. PRIME MINISTER KAISER MATANZIMA ANNOUNCED JULY 19 HE WAS INCORPORATING THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION PORTFOLIOS INTO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MOVING FOREIGN MINISTER DIGBY KOYANA TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PRISONS, CURRENTLY HELD BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S BROTHER GEORGE, WHO IS BEING MOVED TO DEFENSE AND POLICE. MATANZIMA SAID HE WAS TAKING THIS STEP BECAUSE TRANSKEI NOW HAD NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND DID NOT REQUIRE A FULL DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT ITS MINIMAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES. HE SAID THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL IN THE NEW "DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS" WOULD BE REDUCED AND THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL TRANSKEI ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. ACCORDING TO A KNOWLEDGEABLE NEWS SOURCE IN UMTATA, ONE
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REASON FOR THE TRANSFER WAS MATANZIMA'S DISSATISFACTION WITH THE INABILITY OF KOYANA TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION FOR TRANSKEI. SOURCE HOWEVER BELIEVES THE DECISION ALSO REFLECTS THE CULMINATION OF A PERSONAL FEUD BETWEEN KOYANA AND A BRITISH MP, HUMPHREY BERKLEY, WHO IS A PAID ADVISOR TO THE GOVT ON FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. WHILE RECENTLY IN LONDON KOYANA CRITICIZED BERKLEY'S ROLE IN TRANSKEI AND CONTINUED THE ATTACK IN A PRESS CONFERENCE

AFTER HIS RETURN TO UMTATA. BERKLEY APPARENTLY ENJOYS A CLIQUE OF TG SUPPORTERS INCLUDING FINANCE MINISTER TSEPO LETLAKA. REPORTEDLY BERKLEY AND HIS FRIENDS PERSUADED MATANZIMA TO EASE OUT KOYANA. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTER THE DEPARTURE OF KOYANA, WHO AT LEAST GAINED SOME DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE WHILE SECONDED TO THE SA EMBASSY IN LONDON IN 1976, AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY THE MORE PAROCHIAL AND ALREADY FULLY OCCUPIED PRIME MINISTER, WILL LEAVE THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OPEN TO GREATER INVOLVEMENT BY BERKLEY.

3. COMMENT: THE APPARENT ECLIPSE OF KOYANA REDUCES STILL FURTHER THOSE GOT FIGURES CAPABLE OF OPPOSING THE MATANZIMAS. KOYANA WAS A FORMER EXILED PAC LEADER WHO WAS INDUCED TO RETURN TO TRANSKEI PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE WITH A PROMISE FROM MATANZIMA THAT PAC ACTIVITIES INTO SA WOULD BE PERMITTED FROM AN INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI. HE MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION IN UMTATA AS ONE OF THE MORE ABLE CABINET MINISTERS, THOUGH HE FAILED IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION FOR TRANSKEI. THE OPINION IN UMTATA IS SAID TO BE THAT KOYANA'S MOVE TO JUSTICE IS A FACE-SAVING GESTURE AND THAT WITHIN A FEW MONTHS HE WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CABINET.

FARBER

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